

What is claimed is:

1. A maintenance method for an inkjet printer comprising:
wiping a nozzle surface of a print head with a wiper,
blocking the nozzle surface from outside, and
cleaning the print head excluding the blocked nozzle surface.
2. The maintenance method of claim 1, wherein the blocking step comprises capping the nozzle surface.
3. The maintenance method of claim 1, wherein the step of cleaning the print head excluding the blocked nozzle surface comprises cleaning with an absorption member adapted to absorb remaining ink.
4. The maintenance method of claim 3, wherein the absorption member performs the cleaning operation while moving along the print head excluding the blocked nozzle surface.
5. The maintenance method of claim 1, wherein the step of cleaning the print head excluding the blocked nozzle surface comprises cleaning the print head with a cleaning arm which is moved along the print head excluding the blocked nozzle surface.
6. The maintenance method of claim 1, wherein the nozzle surface of the print head is blocked as the wiper is positioned in line with a side of the print head.

7. The maintenance method of claim 6, wherein the step of cleaning the print head excluding the blocked nozzle surface comprises cleaning the print head with an absorption member adapted to absorb remaining ink.

8. The maintenance method of claim 7, wherein the absorption member performs the cleaning operation while moving along the print head excluding the blocked nozzle surface.

9. The maintenance method of claim 6, wherein the step of cleaning the print head excluding the blocked nozzle surface comprises cleaning the print head with a cleaning arm adapted to move along the print head excluding the blocked nozzle surface.

10. A maintenance method for an inkjet printer, comprising the steps of:

- a) wiping a nozzle surface of a print head with a wiper;
- b) calculating a number (X1) of ink droplet firings and comparing the calculated number (X1) with a first reference value (Y1);
- c) if $X1 \geq Y1$ in step b), blocking the nozzle surface of the print head; and
- d) cleaning the print head, with the nozzle surface being blocked.

11. The maintenance method of claim 10, wherein step c) comprises capping the print head.

12. The maintenance method of claim 11, wherein, in step d), the cleaning operation is performed as the cleaning arm is moved along the print head.

13. The maintenance method of claim 11, wherein in step d), remaining ink is absorbed by an absorption member adapted to contact the print head.

14. The maintenance method of claim 13, wherein the absorption member is adapted to absorb the remaining ink while moving along the print head.

15. The maintenance method of claim 10, wherein, in step c), the wiper is positioned in line with a side of the print head.

16. The maintenance method of claim 15, wherein, in step d), the cleaning operation is performed as a cleaning arm is moved along the print head.

17. The maintenance method of claim 15, wherein, in step d), the remaining ink is absorbed by an absorption member adapted to contact the print head.

18. The maintenance method of claim 17, wherein the absorption member is adapted to absorb the remaining ink while moving along the print head.

19. The maintenance method of claim 10, wherein step b) further comprises the step of calculating an amount of fired ink droplets and comparing the calculated amount (X3) with a third reference value (Y3), and

if $X1 < Y1$ and if $X3 \geq Y3$, step c) further comprises the step of blocking a nozzle surface of the print head.

20. The maintenance method of claim 19, wherein step c) comprises capping the print head.

21. The maintenance method of claim 20, wherein, in step d), the cleaning is performed as a cleaning arm is moved along the print head.

22. The maintenance method of claim 20, wherein in step d), remaining ink is absorbed by an absorption member adapted to contact the print head.

23. The maintenance method of claim 22, wherein the absorption member is adapted to absorb remaining ink while moving along the print head.

24. The maintenance method of claim 19, wherein in step c), the wiper is positioned in line with a side of the print head.

25. The maintenance method of claim 24, wherein in step d), the cleaning operation is performed as a cleaning arm is moved along the print head.

26. The maintenance method of claim 24, wherein in step d), remaining ink is absorbed by an absorption member which is adapted to contact the print head.

27. The maintenance method of claim 26, wherein the absorption member absorbs the remaining ink while moving along the print head.

28. A maintenance method for an inkjet printer, comprising the steps of:

- a) wiping a nozzle surface of a print head with a wiper;
 - b) calculating a number (X2) of wipings on the print head and comparing the calculated number (X2) with a second reference value (Y2);
 - c) if $X2 \geq Y2$ in step b), blocking the nozzle surface of the print head;
- and
- d) cleaning the print head, with the nozzle surface being blocked.

29. The maintenance method of claim 28, wherein step c) comprises capping the print head.

30. The maintenance method of claim 29, wherein, in step d), the cleaning operation is performed as a cleaning arm is moved along the print head.

31. The maintenance method of claim 29, wherein, in step d), remaining ink is absorbed by an absorption member adapted to contact the print head.

32. The maintenance method of claim 31, wherein the absorption member is adapted to absorb remaining ink while being moved along the print head.

33. The maintenance method of claim 28, wherein in step c), the wiper is positioned in line with a side of the print head.

34. The maintenance method of claim 33, wherein, in step d), the cleaning operation is performed as a cleaning arm is moved along the print head.

35. The maintenance method of claim 33, wherein, in step d), the remaining ink is absorbed by an absorption member adapted to contact the print head.

36. The maintenance method of claim 35, wherein the absorption member absorbs remaining ink while being moved along the print head.